

Urges Speaker Pelosi to Extend Tax Cuts for All Taxpayers

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today continued his call to extend key tax cuts, a position he's held since taking office in 2007.

"I've said it before, and I'll say it again - this is the wrong time to let key tax cuts expire," said Mitchell. "We need to encourage investment, not discourage it by letting these cuts expire. These cuts affect middle-class families, retirees, homeowners and small businesses owners. They make our tax code more fair and predictable, as well as encourage investment and stimulate job growth."

Today, Mitchell signed onto a letter requesting that the House consider legislation to extend tax cuts for all taxpayers.

Mitchell has repeatedly called for an extension of key tax cuts, including cuts to capital gains and estate taxes. [Source: [Roll Call](#), September 7, 2010; [CNN](#), August 27, 2010; [The Wall Street Journal](#), January 27, 2010]

Last year, Mitchell introduced H.R. 498, the Capital Gains and Estate Tax Relief Act of 2009 with Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL). This bipartisan bill would make recent cuts to capital gains and estate taxes made under President Bush permanent. Mitchell introduced similar legislation in 2007 with then-Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT), H.R. 3170.

In August, Mitchell urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to finally allow a vote on H.R. 498, the Capital Gains and Estate Tax Relief Act of 2009. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#), January 14, 2009]

Mitchell has repeatedly requested that annual Congressional budgets include extensions of these tax cuts, and voted against Congressional budgets when they failed to include them. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#), July 1, 2010]

In January, Mitchell sent a letter to President Obama urging him to extend the Bush tax cuts. "At a time of economic struggle, tax increases would hurt middle-class families, small businesses, stock holders, and home owners in Arizona and around the country. Instead, we should be looking at ways to keep the tax liability low for hardworking men and women in our communities who drive America's economy," Mitchell wrote. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#), January 13, 2010]

Mitchell's position on extending the Bush tax cuts was recognized and praised as "sensible" by the The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board. [Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#), January 27, 2010]

Mitchell's pro-growth, pro-business voting record has also been recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Earlier this year, the Chamber lauded Mitchell with its coveted "Spirit of Enterprise" Award for his pro-growth, pro-business voting record. Mitchell scored the highest of anyone in the Arizona Congressional delegation, including both the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats. [Source: [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), April 27, 2010]

Below is the text of the letter.

September XX, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

The Honorable Steny Hoyer

Speaker

Majority Leader

U.S. Capitol

U.S. Capitol

Washington, D.C. 20515

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We urge you to consider legislation to extend all of the income tax cuts contained in The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (P.L.#107-16). In recent weeks, we have heard from a diverse spectrum of economists, small business owners, and families who have voiced concerns that raising any taxes right now could negatively impact economic growth.

Given the continued fragility of our economy and slow pace of recovery, we share their concerns. We believe in times of economic recovery it makes good sense to maintain things as they are in the short term, to provide families and businesses the certainty required to plan and make sound budget decisions. Providing this certainty will give small businesses, the backbone of our economic recovery, confidence and stability.

While those in the highest income brackets comprise only two to three percent of American taxpayers, economists estimate that they are responsible for 25 percent of national consumer spending. As 70 percent of our economy is driven by consumer spending, this is not the time to jeopardize further growth. It is also estimated that up to one-third of high-income taxpayers are small business owners, our nation's job creators and the backbone of our economic recovery.

All tax cuts can be extended without violating statutory PAYGO. Paying for a short-term extension of the high-income brackets is possible without accruing new debt by using existing surplus funds identified on the PAYGO scorecard, while the PAYGO law already allows for the middle class tax cuts to be extended. This method protects all taxpayers by not adding further to our national debt.

This Congress has taken significant steps to create an environment for the private sector to

create jobs. GDP has moved from shrinking at a rate of more than six percent a year to four quarters of sustained growth. After 18 months of private sector job losses, we have seen eight straight months of private sector job growth creating more than 760,000 jobs. Consumer spending is also trending in a modest positive direction. However, our economy is still recovering and decisive action needs to be taken to assist the recovery moving forward.

We urge quick passage of legislation to extend the tax cuts so that American families and businesses have the certainty required to plan and make informed decisions. The sooner we act, the sooner our nation's economy will benefit.

We look forward to working with you to extend all income tax rates.

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